

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2018

Secretary Mnuchin
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We write to ask for increased transparency and fair procedures in the operations of the Postal Task Force. On April 12, President Trump issued Executive Order 13829, establishing a Task Force on the United States Postal System. The Task Force will “conduct a thorough evaluation of the operations and finances of the USPS” and “develop recommendations for administrative and legislative reforms,” to be submitted to the President within 120 days. Over 60 days have elapsed since the Executive Order was issued, but the Task Force has not indicated publicly how it is working to engage in meaningful reform efforts.

We urge the Task Force to operate in a fully transparent manner, given that the postal system is of utmost importance to the American public. The Task Force should release information to Congress indicating that it has met with all stakeholders who are invested in a fair and successful postal system, and that it has fully reviewed all documents stakeholders have submitted. These stakeholders include postal unions and employee representatives, as well as the Postal Service, Postal Regulatory Commission, and members of the mailing industry. The Task Force should also release information detailing the process it has implemented to fairly and substantively integrate all stakeholders’ concerns into its final recommendations. Finally, the Task Force should release its final report to the committees of jurisdiction in Congress, as well as to the President.

The President’s Task Force should not recommend or implement any action that does not have broad consensus. The Postal Service faces serious challenges to its financial condition, including declining mail volumes, an expanding delivery base, and outdated statutory payments. Meanwhile, package delivery has significantly contributed to revenue growth for the Postal Service. The federal government has already thoroughly evaluated these issues and Members of Congress have agreed on fundamental statutory reforms that will allow the Postal Service to continue providing reliable services in today’s changing world.

We support meaningful postal reform that ensures reliable mail service to all Americans and puts the Postal Service on a more sustainable financial path. Any Postal Service reforms must support employees, retirees, and the Postal Service’s mission to “provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas” and “render postal services to all communities” regardless of income level or location. The Task Force must prioritize existing solutions that have broad consensus. In particular, it is essential that the Task Force consider H.R. 756, the bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act of 2017. This legislation passed the Oversight and Government Reform Committee with unanimous support from Republicans and Democrats, as well as broad support from stakeholders. The Task Force should urge Speaker Ryan to bring this bill to a vote.

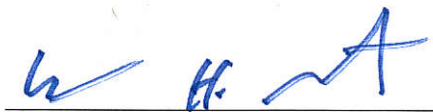
Given the importance of the postal system to all Americans and the need for government transparency, we ask that you reply by July 12 with a full response to the above concerns, including: a list of all meetings and consultations the Task Force has conducted, a detailed explanation of the process the Task Force is using to substantively integrate all stakeholders' concerns, a list of proposals the Task Force is considering that already have broad stakeholder consensus, and assurances that the Task Force will release its final report to Congress.

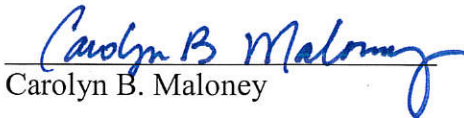
We look forward to your response.

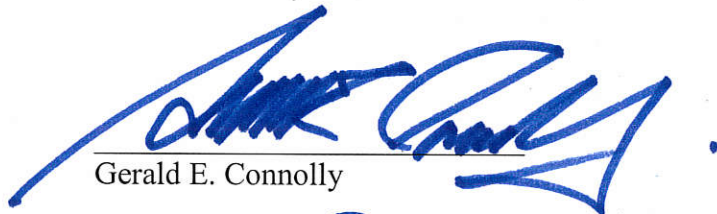
Sincerely,


Brenda L. Lawrence

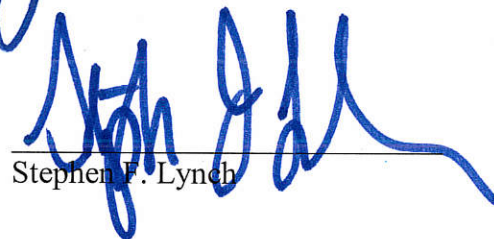

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CC: Director Mulvaney, Office of Management and Budget
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